Rain and gales to bring end to cold spell

12 December 2012 - Met Office forecasters are predicting heavy rain and gales to sweep across the UK on Friday, bringing much milder conditions compared to the cold and frosty weather of the past week.

Although many places will have another fine and cold day on Thursday, rain is expected to sweep east and north across much of the UK later on Thursday night and through Friday.

The rain is expected to be accompanied by strong to gale force east or southeast winds, with the potential for severe gales across exposed coasts and hills.

Gusts of 45 mph are expected quite widely with gusts up to 65 mph possible on exposed coasts and hills in the north and east.

Martin Young, Met Office Chief Forecaster, said: "After another very frosty night for many on Wednesday night we will see a significant change in our weather as a deep Atlantic weather system brings heavy rain and strong to gale force winds for the end of the week.

"The Met Office has issued severe weather warnings which means that the public should plan ahead to take account of possible travel delays or disruption to their day to day activities. By thinking ahead the public can be more weather aware and better prepared for severe weather."

The latest forecasts and warnings can be found on the Met Office website, on our weather apps, and through TV and radio broadcasts on the BBC and ITV.

Contact information

Met Office Press Office: **+44 (0)1392 886655**

E-mail: Press Office

Met Office Customer Centre: **01392 885680**

If you're outside the UK: **+44 1392 885680**

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